

The London Writing Master  
or  
The Scholar's Guide  
Teaching all the Usuall Hands  
now practised in England.

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Invented, Written, and Engraven  
By EDWARD COCKER.

Are to be sold by Robert Park at y<sup>e</sup> Stationers Armes & Ink-Bottle in Lombard Street  
And by T<sup>o</sup> L<sup>o</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> Golden Lyon near the Meal Market in Southwark. Price 6 pence. 1672.

To my hon: Friend  
M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Weston  
Secretary to the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
the Lord Viscount  
Norfolk.

Wor<sup>r</sup> Sir,  
May this Work honour'd w<sup>th</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> Name,  
Your Love to this rare Art proclaim:  
And in sublime Degrees expresse  
For Fav<sup>r</sup> the due thankfulness  
of S<sup>r</sup> Your humble Servant  
EDWARD COCKER



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The Breakes of mixet Secretary Letters.

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aa. llb. ii. dd. dd. ee. ff. gg. ph. ii.  
TT ff. ll. rr. mm. n. oo. vv. pp. qq. rr  
ss. tt. v. uu. rr. w. vv. wyy. --zzz. z  
abfdgchiklmnopqrstuvwxyz

---

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz



labd defghilmnopqrstuvwxyz

---

As an ingenious Comisemente is  
a silent commendation, so a curious  
piece of Writing is a speaking picture.

---

By frequent use experience gained her growth;  
But knowledge shuns from lazynce & sloath

---



A B C D E F G H I K L M N  
O P Q R S T V W X Y Z

---

complementall, Insinuations, <sup>16</sup> turning Equivoltions,  
and knavish Reservations, are to the wise, abominations.

---

encant yo selfe evidently in all Companyes  
So will you be welcome wheresoever you come

---

Hab d d e f g g h i k l m n o p q r s t v w x y z



A b c d e f f g h i k l m n o p  
q r z s t v u w x y z &

Endeavour to imitate the Sun in the  
Firmament by vnwearied constancy  
in some commendable Imployment.

Follow not the amorous, for they are humorous  
nor the humorous, for they are dangerous.  
But evermord<sup>e</sup> accompany the virtuous.



A b c d e f g h i l m n o p q r s t v u w y z  
real guine flowered daily to ingenious men

From that admired Instrument the Pen.

honour me with a line from yo rare hands,  
Who am yo humble Servant to command.





A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P  
C F Q R S T O V W X Y Z

---

Incomparable Writing bears the Bell,  
From all the famous Arts that most excell.

---

Except a choice Pen, few, take, a strictly hand,  
And that's by way fair Writing to command.



R u b e a d d e f f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v u w x y z

---

Earning procures preferment; Preferment  
gaines money, and money commands all things.

S Take much of every moment of yo<sup>r</sup> Time  
In Wisdome Schoole this lesson is the prime







Subsedeſt þo hik in of þy eſt runwaye

one to trus lone or þer mounþe,

Withouty. Letz off in myn & þeomþe



With new herfore lock doþ present,

Embrace it, and ge may prove excellent.



A b c d e f g h i k l m n o s q r f t v w x y z

Pleasures prore commonly Serpent's <sup>nesting</sup> stings

Honcurs are Burthens, and Siche hare wings

But virtues wise Offspring effect better things.

quietnesse and Contentment are the most  
Soveraigne Ingredients in temporal Felicity.





A. a b c d d e f g g h b i k k l m n o p p q  
r s t f t t v v u w w x y z z &

---

Reasons illumination brings  
True illustrations of such things

---

Some are wise, and make a Recreation  
of Businesse. Some are otherwise, and  
make a Businesse of Recreation.



R S T U V C D E F G H I K M N P A R S T R U X Y Z

---

I t is no small commendation to command your  
A B C D E F G H I K L M  
N O P Q R S T V W Y Z

---

Virtue and Practice walking and in hand  
The noblest of Accomplishments command.



**A b c d e f f g h i k l m n**  
rifting is v mündes interpret  
o v q r i s t f f v u w v v z e  
**E**nophon commends heroick  
and virtuous imploymen<sup>te</sup>





# To the Reader.

Y Honoured Friends Mr. Robert Pask and Mr. Thomas Lacy, being desirous to Accommodate Young Practitioners in this Curious Art with a Book of small Price to their great Profit, prevail'd with me (who have always endeavoured to Promote the Publick Good) to perform this necessary Work. So numerous, though various are my Works Published in order to the Advancement and Perfection of this Curious Art, that I should think it time to Appologize for my self for doing so much; did not the Fountain of Experience produce new pleasing Streames. But some may object and say, why would he Smut the Reputation of his larger Productions by bringing up the Reare with so inconsiderable a Trifle? To this I answer first, that I count it not less honourable to Instruct and Improve the meanes; then to be an Instrument of greater Perfection to the Highest. Secondly, every one that has six Pence to spare for the Incouragement of his Practise, is not Master of half a Crown: and yet even he that has but six Pence may be enriched with a more Noble and Sublime Genius, then he that is Obliged to Friends or Fortune for the vast Possession of a thousand Pounds.

A

And

*And were it not a thousand pitties that so Rare an Engine should stand motionless for want of a six Penny Instrument to set it going? Thirdly, That Gallant Youth whose lucky hand by imitation parallels the Copies in this Book will be fit for any Pen-performance, from a Justice of the Peace his Clerk, to a Secretary of State.*

Therefore though small this Book doth seem  
It may deserve no small Esteem.

Such hopeful Endeavourers may encourage their Scientifical  
Souls with such Verses as these, *viz.*

*That Gallant Man who all the rest surmounts,  
In those Rare Arts of Writing and Accompts ;  
Needs not intreat, but may command the Favour,  
Of Dame Pecunia when he pleases to have Her.*

But as for the unprofitable Sons of Sloath, they may behold the Portraiture  
of their hopeless Inclinations in the ensuing Lines.

*Fain would I learn to Write, fain would I Learn  
Accompts, and what the Nobleſt Minds Concern ;  
But O, the powerful Charmes of Idleness,  
Do ſo my Limbs, do ſo my Mind oppreſſ ;  
That I, contented, lay me down and cry,  
This is too hard for me, and That two high.*

*May those who by Gods Providence and Care,  
Have Learn'd already to Write something Fair ;  
Improve by these Inventions and Aspire,  
To the Sublimity of their Desire.*

*And may those Younger Tyros whose small Skill,  
Amounts scarce to the Guidance of the Quill ;  
May they Learn more and more, still mend and mend,  
Where Pains begin, there Gains will crown the End.*

### To make a Pen.

*Since Curious Letters in a kind Distill,  
From the rare Limbeck of a well-cut Quill ;  
Learn first to make this useful Instrument,  
Excelling Pens produce things Excellent.*

**T**ake the first, second, or third Quills in the wing of a Goose or Raven ( those that are round, crisp and clean, are the best ) when you have scraped off the thin Rine thereof, with the back edge of your Pen-knife ; hold it in your left hand with the feather end from you, then enter the knife in the back thereof sloping, and cut off as much in length as the Quill is in breadth and answer that with another cut on the inside, like and apposite to the former ; then turn the Quill, and enter the edge of your Pen-knife even in the back thereof, and exactly in the midst of the half Round ; neither inclining the Blade one way

nor other, that the Slit may not be made awry. Then put in the Peg of your knife-haft, if it has one for that purpose, or the end of a whole Quill; and with a sudden twitch force up the Slit, holding your left-hand Thumb hard upon the back of the Quill, to put a stop how far the Slit shall go. This being done, enter your knife sloping in the other side above the Slit about twice the breadth of the Quill, and cut away the Cradle-piece; then turn the back upward, and cut down to the end of the Slit the Check, or Shoulder pieces, and in so doing turn the knife on both sides towards the back. After this, place the inside of the end, or Nib of the Pen upon the Nail of your left-hand Thumb, holding the Quill fast between the fore Finger and middle Finger of that hand. Lastly, to finish the Nib enter the edge of your knife on the back, and near the end thereof sloping, and immediately turning the edge almost down-right, cut it off.

*There are four Considerations in Relation to the Quill.*

1. If the Quill be too hard, steep it a while in water.
2. If it be too soft, harden it in warme Embers.
3. If it be too thick, pare a small quantity from the back of the Nib.
4. If it be too thin and weak, strengthen the Pen with a short Slit, a short Nib, and broad shoulders.

*Proportion the Pens Nib to every Hand,  
And its Rare Motions learn to understand.*

How

## How to hold a Pen.

**H**old the Pen in your right hand, between your fore Finger, middle Finger and Thumb, with the Scoope downwards. Place your Thumb on the left side highest, bowing outward in the Joyn. Extend your fore Finger almost straight on the right side near the top of the Pen, about a quarter of an Inch further than the end of your Thumb, and near half an Inch from the end of the Nib. Then place your middle Finger under the Pen on the right side about a quarter of an Inch from the end of the Nib. Lastly, place your third Finger over your little Finger drawn inward, and move your hand on the little Fingers end as on its Center; and let the Pen rise up between the second and third Joyn of your fore Finger. Now here accept of some no les material Observations in order to the Affair. *viz.* 1. Hold your Pen easily. 2. Move your hand lightly. 3. Turn your hand outward, or from you. 4. Draw your right Elbow as much toward your Body as conveniently as you can.

## How to sit to Write.

**A**Fore right light, or that which comes on the left hand is only fit to write by. Place your Body fairly even before the Desk or Board on which you write; whose best position is to ascend somewhat from you. Bear your head above the same, at least the distance of a Span, look straight forward, neither turning it on one side nor other. Lean not your breast against the the Desk whereon you write. Stay the Paper with your left hand as you write. Keep a Wast Paper under your hand whereon to try your Pen, and so

preserve that from blotting whereon you write. To prevent spilling of Ink, put Cotten into your Ink-Horn ; but that will oblige you to view your Pens Nib often for fear of hairs.

*So much for the best Posture how to sit,  
The next concerns Accommodations fit.*

*A Pen-knife Razor-Mettle, Quills good store,  
Gum-Sandrick Powder to pounce Paper o're,  
Ink shining black, Paper more white then Snow,  
Round and Square Rulers on your self bestow ;  
Small Compasses to Rule your double Lines,  
Wax, Sand, and Black-Lead Pens for your Designs :  
These with a willing mind, and ready hand,  
Will make this Art your Servant at command.*

### How to write well.

Every thing being prepar'd according to the former Directions, your Paper being Rul'd with double Lines according to the depth of the Letters which you intend to Write, either with a Black-Lead Pen , your Compasses, or the end of an old Pen cut Forked. Then begin you imitation with the breaks of the Letters, proceeding gradually from part to part till you can Frame and Proportion every Letter exactly. This Task I

the

the rather impose upon the Learner as knowing it to be the surest Foundation that can be laid in order to the attainment of this Curious Art. Though it may seem strange that only the Breaks of the sharp mixt Secretary should conduce to the well Writting of the *Al-a-mode* Round Hands, yet to an ingenious diligent Practitioner it will not prove so strange as true. For I have found by Experience in Teaching that the Learners Hand being a while Habituated to this Form of Character, that any other hath been easily attainable. The minums *viz.* the Stroks of the *i, n, m, u, w, &c.* being the same in all. And the Stemmies as those of the *b, f, b, k, l,* and are the same allowing some small Variations considering the nature of the Hand which you Write. The Compass Letters in this will lead to the Writting of those in any other Hand, with consideration whether those other Hands depend more or less upon the Form of a Circle or Oval.

An Alphabet composed Right,  
For Learners Profit and Delight.

At first the Breaks make rarely well, and then  
To the whole Alphabet address your Pen.  
Be Master of one Letter first, before  
Your vain ambition leads you on to more.  
Clear writing is the product of much care,  
Practice will make you write both fast and fair.

Draw with the Pens left Corner every Line  
That must in reason like to Hairs be Fine.  
Every full Stroke the Pen's fullmouth doth crave,  
And they than Hair strokes heavier poize must  
From word to word the space of (m) retain, (have)  
That will your writing render fair and plain.

*Go not from Hand to Hand, till Industry*

*Presents you with the Palm of Victory.*

*Hold in your right Arm, that Hand outward bend;*  
*Raise your Thumbs joyned, two Fingers straight*  
*extend.*

*If you would be the first in Writings Race,*  
*Proportions mind, with every Space and Grace.*  
*Keep from extravagancy Heads and Tails;*  
*Art thrives most where Instruction most Pre-*  
*vails.*

*Let every Letter, as in Duty bound,*  
*Be with his Leaders true position crown'd.*  
*Make all your Strokes true to their forms, & find*  
*Those Graces which most please the eye & mind.*  
*No Blots nor Blurrs, nor Strokes of such a Race,*  
*Must once appear, your Writing to Disgrace.*  
*Ovals Illustrate Italian Letters,*  
*And Secretary Hands are Circles Debtors.*  
*Proportion whites or Compacts Letters small,*  
*With like Diameters, in one piece all.*

*Quaint Strokes and rare Eye Charming Letters*

*From a Pen mov'd with sweet Celerity. (fly*  
*Raise from the Desk your hand a Span, and bear*  
*Lightly your hand; swift motion makes strokes*  
*clear.*

*Shades against shades, lights against lights must lye*  
*Free from all harshness that offends the eye.*

*Turn not your Head nor Body, your Book Place*  
*Before you even, and Write with Clerk-like*  
*View well the (i) the (f) and the small (o) (Grace*  
*All other Letters from those Fountains flow.*  
*Where Circles are concern'd; make Rounds and*  
*where*

*(appear.*  
*Ovals should shine, let Egg-form'd Strokes*  
*X. Things, Pen, Paper, Ink, Knife, Hoan, provide,*  
*Desk, Pounce, Slate, Rule, Compacts, & Skill beside.*  
*Your Elbow mount above your Hand, and then*  
*Let swift command of hand commend your Pen,*  
*Zealous Affection, back'd with good Direction,*  
*Convey the Learner safe to Pen-Perfection.*

